

1673. 516.
A FULL

ACCOUNT 21

Of the Great and Terrible

EARTHQUAKE ~~444~~ 7

IN

Germany, Hungary and Turkey.

Which was one of the *greatest and most dreadful Earth-*
quakes that ever was in the World.

WITH

A most exact and particular Account of the Terrible *Eruptions*
of Fire, Conflagration of Mountains, Devastation of whole Towns
and Villages,

AS ALSO

A Learned Discourse of the Nature; Causes and Kinds of Earthquakes:
With a View of all the several Opinions of the most Eminent Philosophers
in the World, as well Ancient as Modern,

To which is annexed,

Some Reflections and Probable Conjectures of the Consequents and Signifi-
cations of this Calamious Accident.

Written in Dutch by the excellent Pen of

Leopold Wettersteint de Hodenstein: L

And Translated into English by

RICH. ALCOCK Gent.

Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas.

A WALL

ACCOUNT

Of the

ESTATE

IN

THE COUNTY OF ...

Which was one of the ... and ...

A most exact and particular Account of the ... and ...

The ... of the ...

The ... of the ...

Isaac de Hodegheim

RICHARD ALCOCK

Printed by ...

A Full Account of the great and terrible Earthquake in Germany, Hungary and Turkey.

THAT tremendous Earthquake which in March last past began in Germany, and ran through a good part of Turkey, was not only formidable to us Christians; but dismal and dreadful to the Turks and Mahometans: For in Germany, and part of Hungary, the Earth trembled only, without bringing any considerable damage to the Christians; but in the further parts of Hungary and Turkey, 'twas more impetuous and violent. Oh! How were the Rocks rent, and the Mountains torn in sunder? What dire Convulsions of Nature? what hideous noises? what openings of the earth? what belching out of fire and flame? how many Villages, and how many of the Infidel and wretched Inhabitants were absorbed and swallowed up in this calamity, and carried headlong to their Eternal home?

— Quis talia fando

Myrmidonum Dolopumve aut duri miles Ulyssis

Temperet à lachrymis? —

My design at present is to give the world a full and satisfactory account of this dreadful Accident, with a true and just relation of its beginning, continuation and end: as also briefly to discourse of the causes and several kinds of Earthquakes, with a brief survey of the Opinions and Sentiments of all the eminent Philosophers, as well ancient as modern.

An Account of the Earthquake.

IN Rodenstein in Germany, and the circumjacent Countrey near the Confines of Hungary, the winds had been exceeding high, and the weather tempestuous; so that by the violence of those blasts the Countrey men were much incommoded, some of their houses were uncovered, and many trees torn up by the roots. These fierce winds had not continued above a fortnight; but on the 10 of March, about eleven of the clock, the winds were laid on a sudden, and there was a wonderful calm: but notwithstanding this sudden calm, the Sun appeared not all that day. About 12 at night we all perceiv'd the Earth to move, tremble and shake, and this trembling continued all

night, and until 10 of the clock the next morning, and then it ceas'd. This ~~movement~~ of the earth did exceedingly terrifie and consternate the whole Village, and I dare safely avouch it upon my oath, that there was not one person in the whole Town, but his fears and apprehensions of danger caus'd him to rise and betake himself to his prayers. On the next day, which was *March* the 11. the winds were quiet and still, and the Sun shew'd not himself all that day, and at nine in the evening the earth began to tremble again, and continued so all night until morning. The next day the Sun appear'd most splendidly, which remov'd our fears and apprehensions, and added new life to our consternated souls. But we are certainly inform'd upon the Attestations and Depositions of several credible and worthy persons, who were publicly examin'd about the truth of this matter, that this *Earthquake* went by degrees and successively as far as *Buda* in *Hungary*, where on *March* 15. 'twas something more violent than with us, but still without any considerable mischief to the inhabitants.

The discourse of this *Earthquake* began now to be laid aside, and every one now forbore any further to discourse of it, until the third of *April*, when his Imperial Majesties *Envoy* (who had some months before been sent to the *Ottoman Court* with an express concerning some important Affairs of the Empire) return'd, who gave a more particular and fuller account of the progress, continuation and end of this *Earthquake*, as also of the vehemency and dismal effects of it, as he had carefully remark'd them in his travels from *Constantinople* to *Vienna* in *Germany*. This worthy Personage affirm'd, that about six miles on this side *Adrianople*, there was a little Village on the side of a hill, call'd by the *Turk* *Imreft*, which was wholly absorpt and swallow'd up in the dreadful *hiatus* or opening of the earth, caus'd by the violence of the *Earthquake*, and that still there comes forth great quantity of smoke, and in the night flames, to the great terror and astonishment of the inhabitants round about. This noble Person had not pass'd half a days journey further, but he heard more dismal news of the dire effects of this vehement *Earthquake*. Here he saw multitudes of people, men women and childring, wandering about in a most desolate and sad condition, bemoaning bitterly their hard fortune, and the loss of their estates and houses which were consum'd by fire which broke out of the earth, and part of the
houses

houses were absorpt and swallow'd up by the opening of the ground. Here was about seven small Towns wholly consum'd together, the chief of which is call'd by the *Turks Ingelters*. The poor inhabitants had timely notice of the ensuing calamity, for above three days together before they deserted the Villages, the Sun was obscur'd and darken'd, there was continual thundring, most dreadful concussions and commotions of the earth, by the vehemence whereof most of the houses were pitiously defac'd and shatter'd. The *Mahometans* being apprehensive of the bad consequents which might follow these terrible signs, quitted their houses, and betook themselves to the open plains: and it was well they did so, for the very night following *Madam Nature* fell again into a most terrible Convulsion, her very bowels were rent asunder by Subterranean fire, smoak and most impetuous blasts of wind; fire was vomited up, and such a continual and huge quantity of smoak, that for some days together it almost wholly obscur'd the Sun.

As this Person of Honor pass'd along towards *Belgrade*, he saw no more considerable mischief produc'd by this Concussion of the earth, until within almost a days journey of *Belgrade*, upon the plains of *Sinsdt*, where there was a vast *Chasma* or aperture of the ground, caus'd by the imperuous eruption of these Subterraneous blasts: but here was no belching up of flames, no smoak, or any other dismal effect, besides a vast *hiatus*, or opening of the ground only. Neither the *Envoy* nor any of his Attendants were so hardy as to approach this *Chasma* to look into it, or give us any further account of it. In several Towns & Villages the houses were much shatter'd in all his journey along to *Buda*. But from *Buda* to *Germany* the effects of the Earthquake were very inconsiderable, the earth only trembling and shaking, but not so much as one house ruin'd.

It is evident by what we saw with our own eyes at *Hodenstein*, and what this *Imperial Envoy* remark'd in his voyage from *Constantinople* to *Vienna*, that this was all one *Earthquake*, and that 'twas caus'd by an impetuous spirit or blast of wind included in the bowels and caverns of the earth, which run so many hundreds of miles through the blind caverns of the earth, before it could get vent. You may find a parallel example of the like continuation of an *Earthquake*, even from *Hungary* to *Constantinople*, reported by the noble and learned

learned *Aug. Gisleinius* of *Busbeck* (*vide Busbeckii Epist. 3. de Legat Turcic. pag. 147.*) which was about 100 years ago in the reign of *Solyman the Magnificent*, to whom *Busbeckius* was sent by this Court as *Ordinary Ambassador*. Thus much concerning matter of fact, and concerning the late great *Earthquake* in *Germany* and *Turky*. Now I intend briefly to lay down the *Sentiments* and *Opinions* of *Philosophers* concerning the nature, the different species, and the several causes of *Earthquakes* in general.

Seneca in his *Natural Questions* (*lib. 6.*) and *Pliny* in his *Natural History* (*lib. 2. cap. 79.*) unanimously conclude, that an *Earthquake* is the very same thing in the earth, that a *Thunderclap* is in the clouds, and that the *hiatus* and *rupture* is caus'd when the tumultuous blast or spirit imperiously breaks forth and gains its liberty. And this is partly the *Sentiment* of *Aristotle*, and the whole School of *Peripateticks*, as is evident in their Works and Writings, who generally conclude, the efficient cause of *Earthquakes* to be subterranean and tumultuous blasts of winds, included in the bowels and caverns of the earth, and violently forcing a passage out. *Thales Milesius* that ancient Philosopher affirm'd, that water was the cause of *Earthquakes*. This man, as *Seneca* reports of him, (*Natur. Quest. lib. 6. c. 6.*) did assert, that water was the first principle of all things, and that the whole earth did float up and down upon the Ocean like a huge Vessel or Ship, and that an *Earthquake* was nothing else but a violent agitation or tossing of the earth upon the Sea. The chief reason which mov'd *Thales* to embrace this opinion, was, because in many great *Earthquakes* there is an eruption of new Springs, fountains and rivers. See more of this opinion in the fore-cited place of *Seneca*.

Seneca in the ensuing Chapter, tells us of some other Philosophers who affirm'd, that water was the efficient cause of *Earthquakes*, but not after the same manner as *Thales* maintain'd. These men were of opinion, that in the bowels of the earth there was an immense quantity of water, vast lakes, and ponds, and navigable rivers; and that this Subterranean water was the material cause of the eruption and perpetual emanation of Springs and fountains in divers parts of the world: and that these Subterranean waters by their perpetual motion and course, did by degrees eat away and consume their banks, and undermine the pillars and foundations of the earth; so by consequence

sequence that when these pillars of the earth fall, there necessarily follows a sinking, collapſion or concussion of the earth: and thus they say *Earthquakes* are caus'd.

Seneca in his 9 *Chapter* tells us, that some of the Ancients affirm'd, Subterranean fire to be the cause of *Earthquakes*: which by burning, waſting and consuming the inward parts of the earth, causes a falling or sudden sinking down of some parts of the Earth. So that by these mens reckoning the Subterranean fire doth cause an *Earthquake*, *ruina & collapsu partium*, by the sudden fall or subsidence of the earth, when its props and pillars are consum'd by fire. And they endeavour to make this opinion probable by alledging and instancing, that in several *Earthquakes* there has been great and terrible eruptions of fire, flame and smoak from out of the *Chasmata* and *apertures* of the earth.

The same Author in the 14 *Chapter* of his sixth Book of *Natural Questions* tells us, that there were some Philosophers who held, that the earth was a living Creature, endu'd with a rational soul, and consequently with sense and motion, so that an *Earthquake* was nothing but a sudden *Qualm* or *Trembling* of this huge Animal; or rather a *Convulsion Fit*, or *Madam Nature* oppress'd with the *Fit of an Ague*. And this opinion was embrac'd and defended by many of the *Pythagorean*, *Platonick* and *Stoick Philosophers*, who generally held the earth to be a *living Creature*.

Callisthenes a learned man, and an intimate Companion to *Great Alexander*, has writ a whole Treatise on this subject. This learned man says, that vapors and winds do insinuate into the blind caverns of the earth, which afterwards being pent in, and finding no egress, cause a violent concussion and shaking of the earth: and this he says happens most frequently to maritime Countreys. And probably it is from hence that *Homer* calls *Neptune* *Ἐρριπύας*, i.e. *Concussor terræ*, the *Shaker* and *Mover of the Earth*.

Among modern Authors, *Cardanus* a learned Physician of *Milan* in *Italy* denies (in his Book *de Subtilitate*, lib. 2.) all these opinions of the Ancients, and thinks that neither Air, Earth or Water are the efficient causes of an *Earthquake*, but he asserts, that 'tis caus'd by Fire; i.e. by *Brimstone* and other Subterranean Minerals, that participate of the nature of Gunpowder; and when these

are set on fire, there presently ensues a horrid concussion and rupture of the Earth. *Cardanus* instances in *Pioneers* who dig and undermine Castles and Town-walls, and blow them up with *Gunpowder*, and by this instance he manifestly concludes and confirms his opinion.

Reflections and probable Conjectures of consequents and significations of this great Earthquake.

This *Earthquake*, as has been already related, began on *March* last past at *H. denstein*, a Town in *Germany*, and near the confines of *Hungary* (the place of my present abode:). It began, I say, in *Germany*, and in a matter of 14 or 15 days ran through the blind caverns and passages of the earth even to the very heart of the *Turkish Empire*: the *Subterranean Spirit* forbearing to break forth or vent its malice upon *Christians*, but reserving its most prodigious fury for the wretched *Mahometans*. When I reflect upon these things, why may we not conclude, that this portends good and prosperous success to *Christians*, and that the powers of Hell are kept in, and not permitted to vex or disquiet *Christianity*? If this *Subterranean Spirit* was forcibly kept in, and not suffered to break forth upon *Christians*, but fain to run so many hundred of miles before it could force its passage out of the bowels of the earth, and then to bring such desolation and calamity to the miserable *Turks*, why may we not conclude, that this does plainly signify, that the infernal powers shall be converted and turn'd against one another, and that the *miscreant Turks* by intestine wars and divisions shall tear the very heart of the *Ottoman Empire* in sunder? Again, if the *Subterranean Spirits* and *Infernal powers* afflict and persecute the *Turks*, why may we not also conclude, that the *Celestial powers*, and the *Saints* in their courses shall assist *Christians*, &c. fight against this *Sister*, this enemy of the Lord of hosts?

For my part, although I pretend to no gift of *Prophecy*, yet methinks by these great commotions of the earth it does evidently and manifestly appear, that this *Luciferan Emperor of the Turks* is suddenly to be humbled and brought down. He that has hitherto been invincible, and proudly insulted over *Christian Kings and Princes*, now the very earth (the lowest, basest and vilest of all Creatures) seems to bear him, and begins to shake him off. Now (good *Christian Readers* consider) now, I say, when the very earth, the lowest, the basest and dullest of all Creatures, does with such vigour, and so much animosity denounce open war against this great Enemy of *Christianity*, why do *Christian Princes* sit still, and not conjoin their forces in this very nick of time? Now when the *Subterranean Spirit* makes a passage through the blind caverns of the earth, and travels so many hundreds of miles under ground, that he may join impetu- with more fury attack the very heart of the *Ottoman Empire*. Why do *Christians* sit still, and not come from the uttermost parts of *Christianity* to assail this proud Tyrant? *Save the Enemies of the Lord perish.*

